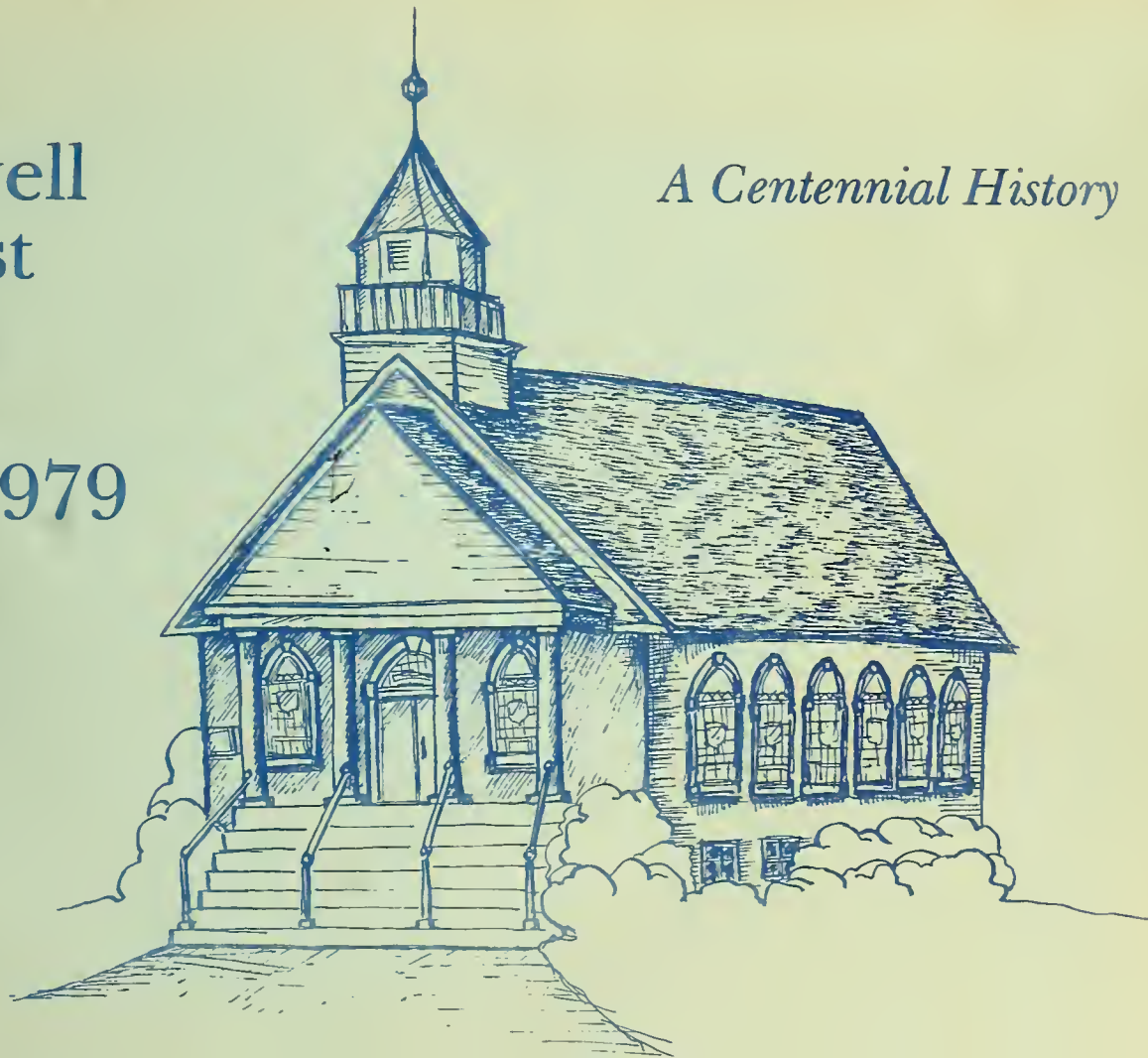


Hopewell Baptist Church

1879-1979

A Centennial History





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Hopewell Baptist Church, 1879–1979



The third church building, erected in 1949

Hopewell Baptist Church, 1879–1979

A Centennial History

PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, DAVIDSON, NORTH CAROLINA

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HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH was organized in 1879 in a brush arbor where Sunday School was held each Sunday. On October 10th of the same year, Hopewell applied for admission into the Brown Creek Baptist Association. The minutes of that meeting read: "The delegates from the Baptist Church at Hopewell presented a letter, asking admission into this body. Several of the brethren testified to the orthodox faith and practice of the church, when, on motion, it was unanimously received, and the delegates, Redick Pope and William Long, were cordially invited to seats with us."

The first church was a small weatherboard building. Men of the church framed the building after harvest season and during the winter months. Land for the first church was donated by Mr. Noah Winecoff who was not a member of the church. Another non-member, Mr. Eli Bratton, donated the materials and gave of his time to build the first benches.

It is said that Mrs. Levi Johnston named the church when she said she would always wish it well. It was later named Hopewell.

Some of the first deacons to serve Hopewell Baptist Church were Mr. Noah Winecoff, who donated the land for the first building; Mr. W. R. Small, who helped organize and build the church; and Mr. G. W. Gurley.

The first known Sunday School Superintendant was Mr. W. R. Small in 1880.

From lack of records, little is known concerning the prac-



The first church building, erected in 1880

tices and pastors of Hopewell prior to 1942. However, from information gathered from the various Baptist Associations, we do know that the pastors were serving several churches at the same time and services were only being held one or two Sundays per month.

The first pastor of record was David A. Snider. He served as pastor during 1880 and 1881. In 1882, J. L. Bennett was pastor; and from 1883–1885, both David A. Snider and J. L. Bennett filled the pastorate simultaneously.

From 1886–1889, A. C. Davis was pastor; followed by A. W. Crabtree, who served from 1890–1893. We have no record of who was pastoring in 1894.

The next pastor of record was W. J. Wyatt who served in 1895. He held the pastorate until 1904 when Hopewell was disbanded and formed Cornelius Baptist Church.

Hopewell was a part of the Brown Creek Baptist Association from 1879 through 1883. From 1884–1885, Hopewell was associated with the Union Baptist Association. She became an affiliate of the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Baptist Association in 1896 and served as host for the Associational meeting in 1897. Hopewell remained in the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Association until the church was disbanded.

THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING had long been removed from the premises. So on September 5, 1914, W. A. Hough and C. J.

Black began a meeting under a tent belonging to the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Association. The tent was erected on the site of the first brush arbor under which the original Hopewell Baptist Church was organized. After preaching twice a day until the following Friday (September 10, 1914), a Presbytery, consisting of C. J. Black, Moderator; W. A. Hough, Secretary; C. B. Austin, Recording Clerk; W. J. Wyatt, and some deacons from Cornelius Baptist Church, was called for the purpose of reorganizing Hopewell Baptist Church.

Following some remarks by the moderator, the Presbytery called for charter members. Forty brethren and sisters, some by letter from Cornelius Baptist Church, some who had never identified themselves with any church since old Hopewell disbanded, and fourteen for baptism, presented themselves.

After reorganizing, the church was called into conference and Mr. T. B. White, Mr. G. W. Gurley, Mr. W. R. Small and Mr. E. E. Kerley were elected to serve as deacons. The church then called W. A. Hough as its pastor.

Hopewell then applied for readmission into the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Association. The Association minutes read, "Hopewell Church asks for admission. W. A. Hough, who recently held a tent meeting at the old Hopewell church site, reported that a new church had been organized and that a letter was sent up to the Association asking admission into the body. The moderator then appointed a committee, composed of R. D. Carroll, R. D. Cross and J. W. Whitley to consider their

application and articles of faith and to report to the Association at the morning session Thursday." Admission was granted in the Thursday morning session.

On Saturday, November 7, 1914, Hopewell church met in conference in the church grove. After prayer by the pastor, the subject of a church building was discussed. It was moved and seconded that a church house be built at once. The following suggestion was submitted by Mr. T. B. White: "That we build a house 32 feet wide, 50 feet long, and 14 feet high with a baptistry and two front doors and arched windows." This plan was adopted by the conference and subscriptions were taken as follows: T. B. White—5000 feet of framing; G. W. Gurley—3000 feet of weather boarding; H. D. Winecoff—\$50.00; Joe Barnette—\$25.00; Mrs. M. A. Dove—\$100.00; Charles Sapp—\$5.00 and some work; Berry Woods—\$5.00; Francis Alexander—\$10.00. Others subscribed several days' work.

A Finance Committee was appointed. It was composed of Mrs. W. R. Small, Mrs. C. E. Winecoff, Mrs. M. A. Dove, T. B. White and G. W. Gurley.

In 1915, the building was erected on the site of the tent meeting. This building had three rooms and a seating capacity of 300. The building and the grounds were valued at \$2,000.00.

W. A. Hough, who was called as pastor when the church was reorganized in 1914, remained as pastor through 1917.



The second church building, erected in 1915



Rev. W. A. Hough, pastor 1914-1917

From 1918-1920, T. L. Cashwell filled the pastorate. In 1921, A. C. Davis, a former pastor of Hopewell was recalled. He only remained as pastor for one year after being recalled.

THE EXACT DATE of the first Homecoming is not known; but according to reports from some of the older members, it began some time prior to 1921. This event was always held on the second Sunday in August until recent years.

The Homecoming was always followed by the annual revival. Revival was always held at this particular time because the church members were farmers and by the second week in August, they had their crops laid by and would be free to attend the services.

From 1922-1927, J. C. Jones was pastor. When he left Hopewell, R. W. Tolbert was called to assume the pastorate.

The same year that Rev. Tolbert came, our WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) was organized. Mrs. B. S. Blanton of Charlotte, N. C. came to the church on August 29, 1928. With her help our WMU was organized, and Mrs. C. H. Gurley was elected president and Mrs. Lillian Winecoff was elected Secretary-treasurer.

L. U. Weston became pastor in 1930 and the same year, Hopewell served as host for the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Associational Meeting.

When Cabarrus and Mecklenburg formed individual

Associations in 1935, Hopewell was transferred to the Mecklenburg Baptist Association.

We do not have any church records for 1933 and 1934. However, records at the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Association for 1932 and the records at the Mecklenburg Baptist Association for 1935, both show L. U. Weston as pastor. So we feel sure that he served as pastor for these two years (1933, 1934). Rev. Weston pastored through 1936.

Rev. M. D. Smith accepted the pastorate in 1937. It was he who began holding worship services every Sunday. Rev. Smith began this practice in 1939 and it has been the custom ever since that time. Rev. Smith remained as pastor until 1942.

The first Sunday in April, 1942, Rev. M. W. Stallings began his ministry at Hopewell. Rev. Stallings was also pastoring at Independence Hill Baptist Church at the same time. On October 1, 1943 Rev. Stallings was called as full time pastor of Hopewell.

Under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Stallings, the R.A.'s and G.A.'s were organized. Miss Connie Belle Shinn was the first G.A. Counselor with Mrs. Stallings assisting. The first R.A. Counselor was Mrs. Mary Atwell.

It was Rev. Stallings who took a group from Hopewell to the Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest for the first time.

Hopewell had never had a Vacation Bible School before. Rev. and Mrs. Stallings taught the people how to conduct a Vacation Bible School. With Mrs. Stallings serving as Principal,



*Rev. J. C. Jones, Sr.,
pastor 1922-1927*



*Rev. M. D. Smith,
pastor 1937-1942*



Rev. Melvin W. Stallings, pastor 1942-1943

the first VBS was held July 26-30, 1943.

On November 7, 1943, Rev. Stallings submitted his resignation. The resignation was moved and passed by the church. Rev. Stallings concluded his ministry at Hopewell on Sunday, December 26, 1943 to accept a call as pastor in Lowell, N. C.

Rev. R. R. Templeton began his ministry at Hopewell on January 22, 1944. He and his wife, Neta, and two of his three daughters, Mildred and Evelyn, moved their letters from First Baptist Church of Mooresville, N. C. His other daughter, Flora, was married.

IN MARCH OF 1944, at the request of Rev. Templeton, the church voted to take out and carry shares in the Building and Loan for the purpose of building a new brick church. The project was to begin when the shares were paid up or when time permitted. The church agreed to take out and carry 50-50 shares which would amount to \$5,000.00. The shares were taken out the first day of April, 1944 and were carried until paid up. The treasurer of the Building Fund was Mrs. Mary Atwell.

In a congregational meeting on October 21, 1945 a Building Committee for the new church and much needed Sunday School rooms was chosen. The committee was composed of Rev. R. R. Templeton, chairman; J. A. Small, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Atwell, Fred Schliestett, Mamie Belle Woods, Mildred

Templeton, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Gurley, Mrs. Ila Brack, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brown, Mack Thornburg, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Dewese, J. W. Atwell, Mrs. Eva Barnette, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest McGinnis, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stillwell, Robert Ray, D. D. Covington, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cannon, and J. B. Thornburg.

On May 9, 1948, the church voted to authorize the Trustees, C. H. Gurley, Robert Ray, and Henry Atwell to borrow \$15,000.00 for the purpose of constructing the new church.

The new church was begun in June, 1948. The building included an auditorium which seats approximately 300 or 350 persons, two choirs, one assembly hall and nineteen Sunday School rooms in the basement. Three restrooms are also located in the basement. The cost of the church building was \$31,683.14. No material was donated and there was no free labor. It was constructed by Rev. R. R. Templeton, contractor.

The new church has been in use since March 6, 1949 even though it wasn't completed until May of 1949.

In June of 1949, the church held a congregational meeting and decided to sell the old church building to Mr. Fred Fillerman for \$8,000.00. It was dismantled and moved to a location in Cornelius where it still stands.

The first baptismal service in the new church was held on August 28, 1949. Those baptized were Annie Laura Barkley, Helen Small, Joe Small, Lonnie Small, Barbara Atkins, Ruth Alexander, and Arlene Dean Honeycutt.

On March 26, 1950 the church fellowship issued a license



*Rev. R. R. Templeton, pastor 1944-1965,
and Mrs. Templeton*



Early baptism

to preach the gospel to Mr. Clyde Jackson who united with the church in 1947 or 1948. In 1951 Clyde moved his letter to the Davidson Baptist Mission where he was later called as pastor.

Hopewell was selected to serve as co-host for the 1951 meetings of the Mecklenburg Baptist Association.

In the November, 1951 meeting of the deacons, the building of a Fellowship Hall was discussed. The deacons decided it would be best to delay building until the church debt was paid in full.

The Associational Training Union Director came and helped organize the Training Union at Hopewell in 1952. It consisted of three classes of which Mr. D. D. Covington was director. The three divisions were: (1) Adult Union with an average attendance of twelve. (2) Young People's Union which started with a membership and attendance of over ten. The leaders of the Young People's Union were Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Lee Gibson. (3) Story Hour which was a class for all children from toddlers through the juniors. Mrs. Ila Brack was the leader. The Story Hour began with an enrollment of twelve.

Hopewell Baptist Church was issued a special invitation to attend the ordination of Mr. Clyde Jackson into the ministry. The service was performed in the Davidson Baptist Mission on June 20, 1954. Clyde became the first man (of record) from Hopewell to be ordained into the ministry.

In 1955, the subject of a Fellowship Hall once again arose. The Young Married Men's Sunday School Class confronted

the deacons and asked for permission to start raising money for the Fellowship Hall so it could be built as soon as possible. Permission was granted and this Sunday School Class donated \$1,000.00 to be applied to the building fund for the Fellowship Hall.

In February of 1956, the Cub Scouts were organized with eight boys joining. Our first charter was received in April of the same year. Miss Ella Neil Cannon was scout leader and Mrs. Evelyn Howard was the assistant leader. The scouts were chiefly sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Y. Sweet.

During the Sunday morning service of April 21, 1957 a note burning ceremony was held in the church auditorium to indicate the church debt was paid in full. With the church debt paid off, Rev. Templeton began drawing up plans for the Fellowship Hall. On June 10, 1957, C. W. Shinn Carpenters began construction on the building.

The estimated cost of the Fellowship Hall, without furnishings, was \$7,000.00. The exterior is brick with a stone chimney. The interior consists of tile floors, paneled walls, a huge stone fireplace, two restrooms, a kitchen area, and a large dining area.

A free fish fry and hot dog supper was held in the new Fellowship Hall on September 14, 1957. All those who had labored on the building, the church membership, and their friends were invited to attend.

Our first Youth Week services were observed April 6-13,



Note burning ceremony, April 21, 1957



*Rev. W. M. Anthony, pastor 1966–1970,
and Mrs. Anthony*

1958. Beginning with the Training Union Hour on April 6, our young people filled every office and position within the church with services being concluded the following Sunday morning, April 13. Our first youth week pastors were Steve Sweet and Bobby Bostian.

The 17th day of May, 1962, the church closed a business transaction in which the property of Julia and Leonard Karriker was purchased. The property was purchased for a recreational park and for a future parsonage. The recreational park was cleared and ready for summer activities in 1964.

On Sunday morning, September 12, 1965, Rev. R. R. Templeton passed away at his home in Mooresville, after serving faithfully as pastor of Hopewell for more than twenty-one years. Funeral services were conducted at the church with Rev. Richard Stanley and Rev. Norman Joyner officiating. Burial was in Glenwood Memorial Park, Mooresville, N. C.

Several weeks following the death of Rev. Templeton, a pulpit committee was selected to begin searching for another pastor to serve Hopewell. The committee was composed of Mr. Ed Y. Sweet, Mr. Bill Gurley, Mr. Fred Covington, Sr., Mrs. Eva Barnette, and Mrs. Betty Shinn.

In January, 1966, Rev. W. M. Anthony began his ministry at Hopewell. He and his wife, Willice, and daughter, Mary Ann, came from Concord, N. C. The Anthonys also had another daughter, Sue, who was married.

A church conference was held on October 9, 1966 in which

the church approved a recommendation to purchase a tract of land on the site of the proposed parsonage. The land was purchased for a cost of \$1,000.00.

In the same month, construction was begun on the parsonage by Gibson and Winecoff Builders. The contract price for the new home was \$28,856.00.

PRIOR TO THE MINISTRY of Rev. Anthony, the church had always had a standing deacon board. The men who were elected to this position served until death or until they resigned. On October 13, 1966, Rev. Anthony recommended that the church adopt a rotating deacon system. Under this system, the present deacons would serve as a nominating committee for new deacons, the three oldest deacons (in time of service) would rotate off each two years, and three new men would be elected to serve each two years. This system went into effect January 22, 1967, when Bill Atwell, Donald Poston, and Leonard Armstrong were elected to begin serving. They were the first deacons elected under the rotating system. This system is still in effect, however, it has been improved upon.

In February, 1967 construction of the parsonage had been completed. The Anthonys moved into the new parsonage in March 1967. They were the first to reside in the new home. A Parsonage Dedication Service was held on April 23, 1967 in which the new site was dedicated to the Lord and His service.



First group to Ridgecrest, 1942 or 1943



Boy Scouts, 1956

The church approved a recommendation on July 16, 1967 to purchase office equipment and supplies for publishing church bulletins. The equipment consisted of a typewriter and a mimeograph machine. This was the first office equipment the church owned. The weekly bulletins were published by Rev. and Mrs. Anthony.

The first Senior Citizens banquet was held on October 1, 1967 with a noon day meal being served in the basement of the parsonage. The banquet was sponsored by the WMU in honor of all our senior citizens.

On June 16, 1968 the church employed its first paid Minister of Music. Mr. Guy Hatley accepted the position on a part time basis.

In 1968 the Young Married People's Training Union class began raising money to purchase a new organ. On February 9, 1969 the church selected an organ committee to help raise funds. The committee was composed of Donald Poston, Leonard Armstrong, Evelyn Howard, Annie Lou Small, and Edith McGinnis. With the aid of this committee and the church fellowship, the church purchased the new organ in 1969. The cost of the new organ was \$3,950.00. The old organ was sold to Mrs. Edith McGinnis for \$500.00 and the money was applied to the purchase of the new Hammond organ.

Rev. W. M. Anthony submitted his resignation on Sunday, July 26, 1970 to become effective the first Sunday in September. Rev. Anthony left Hopewell September 6, 1970 to accept a

call to East Corinth Baptist Church in Gold Hill, N. C.

The church elected a pulpit committee on August 2, 1970 to begin seeking a new pastor. Those elected were Donald Poston, Mack McGinnis, Leonard Armstrong, Edith McGinnis, and Annie Lou Small with Arzelle Deese and Guy Hatley being the two alternates.

On October 4, 1970, Rev. Randal Dockins began serving as interim pastor. Formerly a native of Tennessee, Rev. Dockins and his wife, Betty, were now residing in Charlotte, N. C.

Since the departure of Rev. and Mrs. Anthony, Adele Poston had been publishing the church bulletins voluntarily. On Sunday, March 14, 1971, upon the request of Rev. Dockins, the church voted to hire a part time secretary on a trial basis. The secretary would be responsible for publishing the weekly bulletins and keeping all church records. The first secretary employed by the church was Mrs. Helen Barnette.

On Sunday morning, September 12, 1971 Rev. Fred L. Herring delivered a trial sermon. The church voted to call him to serve as pastor.

On Sunday morning, September 26, 1971, the deacons and interim pastor, Randal Dockins, recommended to the church that Mr. Lewis Ray Howard be allowed to deliver the message at the evening worship service and that following the service the church grant him a license to preach. It was approved unanimously and Lewis Howard was granted this privilege.



*Rev. Randall Dockins, interim pastor
1970-1971, and Mrs. Dockins*



*Rev. Fred Herring, pastor 1971-
1974, and Mrs. Herring*



Vacation Bible School, summer 1942

Next page: Vacation Bible School, summer 1953

Rev. Dockins concluded his interim pastorate at Hopewell on October 24, 1971 and Rev. Herring assumed the pastorate the following Sunday, October 31, 1971. Rev. Herring, his wife, LaRose, and three children, David, Denise and Tim came from Arbutus Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Having been called into the ministry, Mr. Eugene Shinn asked the church to grant him a license to preach. In compliance with his request and upon the recommendation of Rev. Herring, Eugene was granted the license by the church at the evening service of January 23, 1972.

On April 8, 1973 the church voted to have a pictorial directory printed. A committee was selected to contact all church members and make appointments for picture-taking and to compile the directory. The committee was composed of Connie Davis, Adele Poston, Merle Barnette, and Martha Honeycutt. The family pictures were taken November 4, 1973. The first directories were received in April of 1974, but they were unsatisfactory and were returned to the company. The pictorial directories were received again on December 8, 1974 and were distributed to the church fellowship. This was the first pictorial directory ever compiled by the church.

An old fashioned Watchnight Service was held on December 31, 1973. The service began at 11:30 P.M. with Rev. Herring explaining the meaning of the Lord's Supper as in Jesus' day. Hymns were sung, the church covenant was read in unison, scripture was read, and everyone sat around the table





Rev. Eugene Shinn

and observed the Lord's Supper by breaking bread and passing the cup. The service was concluded with everyone reading responsively from the book of Psalms and joining hands and singing "Blest Be the Tie." This was the first old fashioned Watchnight Service in recent years.

In March of 1974, the *Church Crier*, the first newsletter ever published by the church, was mailed to all members of the church. The newsletter was named the *Church Crier* by David Brown and the first edition was dedicated to Mr. Mack Thornburg.

Mr. Eugene Shinn accepted a call as pastor of Westside Baptist Church on July 14, 1974. His ministry there was to become effective immediately. Eugene was attending Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute when he received the call to Westside.

Mr. Shinn was ordained as a minister of the gospel on Sunday afternoon, August 4, 1974 at Hopewell Baptist Church. He united with Hopewell upon a profession of faith in May of 1943. Eugene is the first man (of record) to be ordained into the ministry at his home church.

On Sunday, October 20, 1974, Rev. Fred Herring submitted his resignation to the church. The resignation became effective following the evening worship service of the same date.

A pulpit committee was elected on November 3, 1974. The committee selected to seek a new pastor for our church was

Mrs. Ila Brack, Mr. U. L. Archer, Mr. Willie Nance, Mr. Jimmy Dale Childress and Mrs. Thelma Winecoff. The two alternates were Mrs. Evelyn Howard and Mr. Clarence Barnette.

February 2, 1975, Rev. Lyman B. McDonald preached trial sermons at both the morning and evening services. The church voted unanimously to call Rev. McDonald to fill the pastorate at Hopewell.

Rev. McDonald began his ministry at Hopewell on Sunday, March 9, 1975. He and his wife, Nelda, and two of his four children, Denise and Lyman "Bo" McDonald, Jr. came to us from Miami, Florida. Rev. McDonald's other two children, Jeanie and Evelyn, are married.

A DEBT BURNING CEREMONY was held on May 16, 1976. On the same date, the church voted to secure another loan for \$70,000.00 to purchase approximately 40 acres of land adjoining the church property behind the Fellowship Hall and cemetery. It was purchased at \$2,000.00 per acre. Three five acre tracts have been sold, but the church retains 23.339 acres for future building sites and cemetery space.

On Wednesday evening, November 12, 1975, Mr. Leonard Armstrong, chairman of the deacons, recommended that the church fellowship grant a license to preach to Mr. Lloyd Pendergraft, who had felt a call by the Lord to enter into the ministry. The recommendation was approved and the follow-



Rev. Lyman B. McDonald, pastor 1975-1979



Scene of an annual Homecoming

ing Sunday, November 16, Lloyd was granted this privilege. Lloyd and his wife, Cindy, united with Hopewell on March 9, 1975 when Lloyd accepted the position of part time Music Director. Lloyd resigned this position in order to enter South-eastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest.

On Sunday, January 23, 1977, the church voted to extend a call to Rev. J. Bradley Mobley to serve as full time Minister of Music and Youth. Rev. Mobley accepted the call and he and his wife, Ruthie, occupied the church house beside the parsonage. He began serving in this capacity Sunday, March 6, 1977.

On Wednesday evening, October 16, 1977, at a regularly scheduled business meeting, Rev. McDonald asked for permission to appoint a Planning and Survey Committee to begin making plans to build a new educational building. Permission was granted. The committee appointed is composed of Mr. John Cheeks, chairman, Mrs. Adele Poston, Mr. Pete Winecoff, Mrs. Mary Atwell, Mr. Joel Davis, Mr. Ken Blackwelder, Mrs. Annie Lou Farrington, and Mr. Willie Nance. The committee began work immediately to devise a plan to raise funds so construction could begin as soon as possible.

Canvassing for "Bricks for the Master" began June 30, 1978. Each family was asked to pledge \$5.00 per week for thirty nine weeks. The pledges were to begin on Sunday, August 6, 1978 and continue through April of 1979. All monies received would be placed in a savings account so as to draw interest. It is to be applied to the new educational

building when enough money is secured to begin construction.

On November 5, 1978, Rev. Bradley Mobley resigned as Minister of Music and Youth. His resignation became effective November 19, 1978. Rev. Mobley resigned to accept a call as pastor of Wilderness Baptist Church, Spotsylvania, Virginia.

On the same date, November 19th, the church voted to call Jerrold William Stevens as part time Music Director. Jerrold began his duties as director of music on Wednesday evening, November 22, 1978. At this time, Jerrold still fulfills this position.

Friday evening, January 19, 1979, Rev. Lyman B. McDonald suffered a fatal heart attack at Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, N. C. Funeral services for Rev. McDonald were conducted at the church on Sunday evening, January 21, 1979 at 3:00 P.M. with Dr. Carl Bates and Rev. Joe Burnette officiating. He was buried in the church's new cemetery. Rev. "Preacher Mac" McDonald was not only the first person to be buried in the new cemetery, but he is also the first pastor of Hopewell to be buried at the church.

On Sunday morning, February 4, 1979 the church elected a pulpit committee composed of Mr. Jerrold Stevens, Mrs. Annie Lou Farrington, Mr. John Cheeks, Mr. Pete Winecoff and Mr. Raymond Dellinger. Harland Peaslee and Edith McGinnis were the two alternates.

On Sunday morning, April 22, 1979, Rev. William J. Jones



Rev. William J. Jones, pastor 1979-



*Ground breaking for Lyman B. McDonald Educational Building,
March 18, 1979*

preached a trial sermon. Following the evening service on the same date, the church fellowship voted to extend a call to Rev. Jones to fill the pastorate at Hopewell Baptist Church.

Rev. Jones has pastored in Jonesville, Kings Mountain, Siler City, and in Atlantic on two occasions. He and his wife, Helen, came to Hopewell from Atlantic Baptist Church, Atlantic, N. C. They have two children, Mrs. Jackie Loftin and Miss Sandra Jones, who reside in Hickory, N. C. They also have three grandchildren.

Rev. and Mrs. Jones moved into the church parsonage the last week in June and his ministry at Hopewell officially began on Sunday, July 1, 1979.

We, the fellowship of Hopewell Baptist Church, are looking forward to a joyous and fruitful ministry under the leadership of our new pastor.

IN A SPECIAL called conference of March 18, 1979, the church voted unanimously to name the new educational building "The Lyman B. McDonald Educational Building" in memory of Preacher Mac. A Ground Breaking was held on the same date immediately following the morning worship hour. The first spade of dirt was turned by Mrs. Nelda McDonald, Bo McDonald, and Denise Armstrong, the wife and children of Preacher Mac.

On March 25, 1979, at a special called conference, the church fellowship gave the Trustees, Leonard Armstrong, Pete Winecoff, and Alma Dewese, permission to borrow \$140,000.00 from Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan Association so we can begin construction on the new educational building.

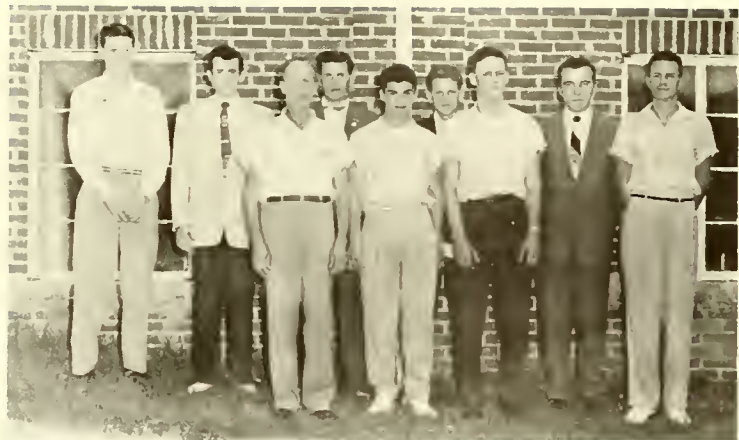
The Lyman B. McDonald Educational Building is now under construction. Northway Contractors of Taylors, S. C. are in charge of the construction. When completed, the building will be 44' by 120' or 5280 square feet. It will provide Sunday School class rooms for our infants, children and senior adults. It will also have four rest rooms, two especially designed for children. There will also be a study and office located in the new building. The outside structure will be brick with a cornerstone bearing the message, "The Lyman B. McDonald Educational Building—Built, 1979."

On May 12, 1979 Mr. Lloyd Pendergraft graduated from Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest. Hopewell was issued a special invitation to attend Lloyd's ordination on June 10, 1979. The service was held at Pilgrim United Church of Christ where Lloyd has been serving as pastor since October of 1977. Lloyd was the third man (of record) from Hopewell to be ordained into the ministry.

In 1880 when Hopewell filed its first report with the Brown Creek Baptist Association, there were 26 members of Hope-



First Senior Citizens banquet, 1967



Young Men's Sunday School Class which donated first \$1,000 toward Fellowship Hall

well Baptist Church. At the end of the 1978 Associational year there were 343 members on roll. We have had three men* from Hopewell who have been ordained into the ministry—Clyde Jackson in 1954, Eugene Shinn in 1974 and Lloyd Pendergraft in 1979. This reflects the fact that a church continues to grow. Her history is never complete. One of our former pastors said it well, "The history of a church is never finished. It is written in the sacrifices of her members through the years as they grow in wisdom, in knowledge, and in favor with God and man. May God give to this church the vision, the grace, and the courage to answer the high calling of Christ for the future of Hopewell Baptist Church, Davidson, North Carolina."

*There have possibly been others from Hopewell who have entered into the ministry or some other religious vocation but we do not have any early records or facts to substantiate this, and this history was compiled strictly from existing records and facts.



Church fellowship after completion of new church in 1949

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